

The
OLIVE BRANCH
 A monthly publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

715 2ND ST. NE

WATERTOWN, SD

JANUARY 2011

www.mtolivewatertownsd.org

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 1

Wander or Wonder

Write those words in longhand and you will find that the only difference between them is a little twist of the wrist changing the 'a' to an 'o'. But what a difference between those words when used to describe our attitude toward life, and the new year.

Wander: Think of times when you were lost without a map. This word brings to mind the aimless course of the people of Israel in the wilderness. They wandered forty years. Someone might comment with a sly grin that if Moses weren't male they would have stopped for directions. Actually they all refused to trust God's direction. They wandered because they rejected God's plan.



So many people of our world today go through life wan-

dering aimlessly. Either they don't know God's direction, or they refuse to follow it. People so easily chase after this attraction, or follow that sinful desire. But where does that behavior lead? Nowhere! As a matter of fact it just gets us more lost. Spiritual wandering is a dangerous, even sinful attitude.

Wonder: We have just come through the celebration of Christ's birth. Over and over the Bible uses the word 'wonder' to describe the reaction of people who hear of the Savior. Salvation comes to the people of the world as a free gift. What a wonderful treasure! It gives direction and purpose to an aimless world. Is this not a wonder? God has a purpose for your life. Because of Jesus, you need not go running after useless things. He opens our eyes in wonder to see all the opportunities He places into our lives.

We now face a new year. Will you wander through the days and years ahead? Or, will you face it with a sense of wonder and grace that only God can provide? Remember that God has sent His Son to a wandering

world. Since He has given you direction in your life, the question now is how He will use you to bring the wonder of salvation into the lives of others.

Indeed, how can you help to bring wonder to a lost world. Maybe we should all stop for directions. Look in the Bible for everything you need to know.



Pastor Possell

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

September - May

Worship 8:00 AM
 Fellowship 9:00 AM
 Education Hour 9:15 AM
 Worship 10:30 AM



ADDRESS BOOK UPDATE

Allen, David*
 (605) 886-2270
 1212th St. SW
 Watertown, SD 57201

Collins, Brittany
 (605) 520-6637
 1019 2nd St SE
 Watertown, SD 57201

Goche, Sara*
 Alexis, Brianna
 (507) 829-8117
 412 1st St. SW
 Watertown, SD 57201

Hamman, Wallace
 c/o Jenkins Living Center
 215 S Maple
 Watertown, SD 57201

Kriese, Loren & Marilyn*
 1232 2nd Ave SE
 Watertown, SD 57201

Johnson, Chad & Kara
 (307) 631-7893 or 630-3260
 952 S Lake Dr
 Watertown, SD 57201

Luoma, Trent*
 (605) 520-5493
 1019 2nd St SE
 Watertown, SD 57201

Mahn, Darrin*
 213 19th St SE
 Watertown, SD 57201

Nygaard, Kassidy*
 213 19th St SE
 Watertown, SD 57201

O'Bryan, Brent*
 (712) 261-0316
 416 8th Ave NE
 Watertown, SD 57201

Voigt, Russ & Tricia*
 Zachary, Aubrie, Kadyne
 (605) 753-3800
 1813 10th St. NE
 Watertown, SD 57201

Reck, Stacy & Kasey*
 (605) 261-5778
 517 19th Ave NE
 Watertown, SD 57201

Stormo, Beverly*
 (605) 886-9187
 61 Paradise Dr
 Watertown, SD 57201

Voigt, Russ & Tricia*
 (605) 753-3800
 1813 10th St NE
 Watertown, SD 57201

* new members

OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral

Leslie Reyelts December 22, 2011



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

How did you do with your resolutions for the year 2011? About the same as for other years? Can you even remember what those resolutions were? Why do we struggle so much with resolutions? Is it because they are not realistic? Is it because we try to do it completely on our own without any outside help (even from God)? Failure is one of the biggest disappointments in life. Is it possible to start over successfully?

As we enter into this New Year we have another opportunity to start over. Having the privilege of starting over is one of the things in life that gives us hope and courage as we look to the future. As we take down our 2011 calendars and replace them with 2012 calendars we really can start over.

In Romans 12:12 (NIV) the Holy Spirit gives us some great ingredients for a really good New Year's resolution. The encouragement is to **"be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer."** Life would be so sweet if everyone could adopt and live out those three pieces as a New Year's resolution.

"Be joyful in hope" should be pretty easy for Christians because our hope is in Christ and **"that hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."** (Romans 5::5 NIV)

"Be patient in affliction" can be considerably more difficult because we do not like affliction. Who of us likes to be mistreated by people who are rude, inconsiderate and downright nasty? Where can we get the strength to be patient in affliction? It takes

a giant transformation to behave so nicely when afflicted? Our comfort is that the power to do that does not come from within us, but from outside of us. When we were baptized **"we were buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."** (Romans 6:4 NIV) No one in the history of mankind had to deal with as much affliction as Jesus, our Savior! And He did it out of love for us so that we do not have to fear eternal affliction!

"Faithful in prayer" keeps us in touch with God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus spent entire nights in prayer with His Father in heaven so that He would have the strength to carry out His mission of dying for sinners so that they might have the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Prayer is an excellent way to stay in touch with God and His love and power.

How does this threefold resolution make a difference in our lives and the lives of those around us? It does because the Holy Spirit is at work within us to make us more and more the children of God. As children of God we seek to do the same things that give Him such delight. John 3:16 tells us that God delights in **loving and giving**. God has entrusted us with all of life and life's resources and desires that we manage them wisely according to His purposes. **Loving and giving** are at the heart of Christian stewardship.

May God bless us all as His stewards in this New Year of 2012!

Local Lutheran Hour Broadcasts

Station	City	Freq	Band	Day	Time
KMSD	Milbank	1510	AM	Sun	7:00 AM

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

January 1 "The Lord Will Have the Last Say!" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz The Lord Jesus saves, the Lord Jesus reigns, and in all things He will have the last say! We begin the new year in His Name. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

January 8 "Jesus' Baptism: Solidarity with Sinners to Save Them!" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz Jesus stepped into the Jordan River for a baptism He didn't need in order to save a people who didn't deserve it. He showed solidarity with sinners so that they might receive God's forgiveness and mercy by grace. (Mark 1:4-11)

January 15 "Bought with A Price!" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz What are you worth? We live in a world that doesn't know how to answer that question. Your true value is found in a restored relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

January 22 "Living a Life With Purpose" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz In Christ, God has a plan for you-a life with purpose, life to its fullest measure, life in Him-for others. (Mark 1:14-20)

January 29 "One With Authority" Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus Even Jesus' enemies had to admit that He spoke with authority. What's more, Jesus showed His power and authority to forgive sins and conquer death itself. (Mark 1:21-22)

BLUE CLOUD ABBY RETREAT
By Sharon Falk, Retreat Chairman



The Zone LWML winter retreat will be held at Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, on Friday and Saturday, February 3-4, 2012. The topic will be "A Time for. . . ." and will be presented by the Rev. Jeffrey Kalb, pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Sisseton, and Zion Lutheran Church, Waubay.

Those attending will (1) Become aware that time is a gift from God; (2) Realize that time should be used to its fullest in glory to God; (3) Resolve to use his/her time in three specific ways – for God, for oneself, and for others; (4) Become aware that God, as the Giver of time, forgives any unwise use of time and enables each one to use time wisely. Please bring Bibles.

Registration is \$55 for a double room (2 twin beds) and \$60 for a single room. (The Abbey has made slight increases.) The registration fee includes the room with a private bath, 3 meals, snacks and retreat materials. A \$15 non-refundable deposit is due to the society presidents by January 15, with the balance due at registration, which is at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3. Cut-off for final registration is January 31.

There will be an ingathering of needed items for the Women's Circle in Sisseton, an agency that helps battered women and their children. You might want to bring personal hygiene items, pillows, linens, diapers or clothing. Cash will be accepted.

For the mixer/ice breaker, those attending are asked to bring a "show and tell" item which will help tell about a talent or skill that you possess. Also bring Bibles, games and puzzles for fun night, and a friend.

Lots to look forward to – devotions, singing, Bible study, good food, sketches, games, crafts, puzzles, fun and fellowship. The weather will be better ----- it couldn't be any worse!



CALENDAR NOTE

January 22, 2012

Potluck 11:30 am

Voters Meeting

1:00 pm

Therefore, if anyone is in
CHRIST
any one
he is a new
CREATION
NEW
the old has gone, the new has
COME!
Christ
2 Corinthians 5:17

E-VERSION NEWSLETTERS

An electronic version of our newsletter "The Olive Branch" is available. If you want to give the E-version of the "Olive Branch" a try, just e-mail the church office at mtolive@tnics.com. The newsletter is also



available on the church's website under the news tab. Check it out! www.MtOliveWatertownSD.org.



Child Care Available

Child care during second service will resume in September, for children up through age 3.

Parents interested in using this service should plan on volunteering to help once a month, less often if we have more people. We also welcome other volunteers from the church. Please consider helping with this, many visitors appreciate this option, as well as members. Contact Kris Possehl if you have questions.



LWML NEWS

By Marilyn Koepke, Chairman

As we approach the new year we are making plans for the year.

Circles will meet separately, at their regular times this month. Esther circle will meet on Wednesday, January 11 at 1:30 PM. with Lorraine Rittmann as the hostess and Dorothy Bassingthwaite as leader. Ruth Circle will meet on Thursday, January 12 at 7 PM with Eileen Kraemer the hostess and Jacqui Pieschke the leader. Topic will be from the Winter 2011 Quarterly. (Choice of the leader this time.) The Roll call will be quarters for Orphan Grain Train Shipping.

Thank you to the people who came out the first Tuesday in December to decorate the church for Christmas.

Work days will be each Tuesday in January at 9:30 AM. Bible class will be each Tuesday at 1:30 PM, we are still working on Genesis.

The Board will meet on Tuesday, January 3 at 11 AM; because of the circles meeting early in the month.

We have a vacant position for historian. If you might like this please let me know or someone on the board.

The LWML Winter Retreat at Blue Cloud Abbey information is listed in the newsletter. Reservations need to be made by mid January with \$15.00 deposit given to either Sharon Falk or Marilyn Koepke.



THANK YOU

Thanks to the families that contributed money toward the poinsettias:
Trudy Paulson, Lavern Mc Daniel,
Delores & Merle Heidenreich,
Ken & Jean Passow, Wendy Brown,
Iver & Kristin Possehl, and Marion Johnson.
Thanks so much, they are beautiful.



DID YOU KNOW...



- That Mt. Olive has a web site?
MtOliveWatertownSD.org
- That Mt. Olive has a facebook group?
Search facebook groups for Mt. Olive Lutheran.
- That you can get the "Olive Branch" as an e-mail attachment?
Contact the church office to be added to the list.
- That you can watch "Main Street Living" programs online?
Go to mainstreetliving.com and click "watch online".

REPORTER

(complete stories on the bulletin board)

LCMS OFFERS SUPPORT, PRAYERS FOR PHILIPPINES Lutheran families are among thousands who have lost their homes to flooding in the wake of Tropical Storm Washi, which struck the Philippine island of Mindanao Dec. 17. LCMS World Relief and Human Care is providing an initial grant of \$25,000 for food, water, clothing and shelter.

LCMS, NALC LEADERS RELEASE STATEMENT ON TALKS Representatives of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and the North American Lutheran Church released a statement Dec. 16 about their discussions Dec. 15-16 in St. Louis. The statement follows.

An initial discussion was held on 15-16 December 2011 between representatives of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod (LCMS) and North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The meeting was held at the invitation of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. The NALC had also committed itself in its formal ecumenical statement to meetings with the LCMS.

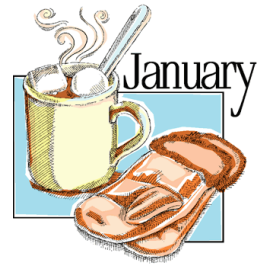
COP CONSIDERS CHURCH-PLANTING IN 'UNCHURCHED TERRAIN' At its meeting Nov. 15-17 in Raleigh, N.C., The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod Council of Presidents (COP) continued its ongoing conversation about the church in a post-church culture.

The council heard from the Rev. Bill Beyer and the Rev. Mike Merker, pastors of two LCMS Southeastern District congregations that began as mission efforts during the past decade. In both cases, the congregations began in communities where there was no previous LCMS presence.

ON PLANTING CONGREGATIONS: ADVICE FROM BEYER, MERKER The Rev. Bill Beyer, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Clayton, N.C., and the Rev. Mike Merker, pastor of Jordan Lutheran Church, Apex, N.C., shared the following church-planting ideas with the LCMS Council of Presidents at its Nov. 15-17 meeting in Raleigh, N.C. The two congregations were started in 2001 and 2008, respectively, as new mission starts in the Synod's Southeastern District.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1	Marion Johnson Kristin Linke	1/13	Harry Johnson Emmanuel Jones	1/20	Myra Waxdahl
1/2	Lucille Ehlers	1/14	Steven Sears Heather Smith	1/21	Tracy Brandenburger Amanda Woodland
1/3	Ryan Killion		Thomas Schulz	1/22	Sierra Oleson
1/4	Sarah Fuerstenau	1/15	Eric Grund	1/24	Don Bjerke Daryl Schoenefeld
1/5	Taisha Johnson Melissa Schmeling	1/16	Sarah Possehl	1/25	Alexa Woodland Jeremy Brey
1/6	Danika Schoenefeld		Travis Foster Pam Helle		Sarah Butzin
1/8	Mark Ramsey	1/17	Travis Lauseng	1/28	LaVonne Schoenefeld
1/9	Curt Kunkel		Sue Magedanz	1/29	Caiden Berg
1/10	Derrick Jerke	1/18	Logan Scott		Sharon Falk
1/11	Brenda Glover	1/19	Malcolm Van Vleet	1/30	Ally Helle
	Francis Boogaard	1/20	Mark Koepke		Hannah Van Vleet
	Brad Herding		Zaiden Sauer		
1/12	Nathan Waxdahl Jerry Cleveland		Jordan Seehafer		



ELDERS FOR JANUARY

Don Schneider
Gene Johnson

January Anniversaries

1/22/88 Rick & Wendy Schulz
1/26/02 James & Jennifer Meyer

INFORMATION REQUEST

If you notice any incomplete or incorrect information in the birthday and/or anniversary lists, please contact the office or leave a note on the secretary's desk so correct information can be entered.



A NEW
YEAR
&
NEW
OPPORTUNITIES



Each family unit at Mt. Olive is assigned to a "Faith and Care" family. These groups give our members the opportunity to put their faith into action, and to care for one another. Family assignments and sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

SUNDAY SERVICES: Everyone is encouraged to help with the regular tasks of the church on Sunday. These tasks include ushers, acolytes, readers, greeters, and also servers during fellowship time.

FELLOWSHIP: People have the opportunity to get to know each other better by working together, and planning together. Each Faith and Care family should gather early in the month before their turn is up, to organize and schedule.

January Faith & Care Families "Family of Paul"

Judy Barnes	Trent Luoma
Jon & Tracy Brandenburger	Tim & Roxanne McElhany
Brittany Collins	James & Jennifer Meyer
Jeff & Carol Collins	Tony & Betsy Oleson
Kasey & Steffanie Danley	Royal & Wilma Olson
Lucille and Robert Ehlers	Don & Mary Pasch
Vic Frentz	Iver & Kristin Possehl
Jean Harms	Irma Roberts
Armin & Candace Hinkelman	Don & Barb Schneider
Brianna Hinkelman	Don & Joyce Schoenbeck
Derald & Barb Hughes	Ruben & Pat Schulz
Alex & Arlene Jordan	Susan Settje
Larry & Gloria Kannas	Vergean Steen
Marsha Kapp	Lindee Waba
Arvid & Eileen Kraemer	Karmen Wiesinger
Clyde Kraemer	

February Faith & Care Families "Family of John"

Larin Albertson	Julie Miller
Don & Elva Bjerke	Craig & Sarah Morrow
Carolyn DesLauriers	Dana Patten
Missy DesLauriers	Sandy Patten
Mabel Engel	Mark & Linda Ramsey
Aaron & Becki Erickson	Kiley Ramstorff
Todd & Connie Fuerstenau	John & Lorraine Rittmann
Betty Hart	Allison Schmitz
Dave & Paula Hulscher	Dawn Scott
Del Hutchins	Joe Sears
Kathy Killion	Melissa & Steve Sears
Myron & Olive Krause	Dick & Margaret Snover
Elaine Lehna	Karna Swenson
Herb Linderer	Myra Waxdahl
Paul McIntire	Ed & Gail Wegner
Kevin & Glenda Meyer	

This gathering could be a pot-luck just for that group, or some other event that gives everyone a chance for worthwhile fellowship.

CARE: There is a wide variety of people in each group. There are some who will not be able to be directly involved in group activities, because of health reasons. Or perhaps they have responsibilities at home or work and are not able to get away. We hope the Faith and Care group will be in touch with everyone in the group at least once during the month they serve. If there is a special need that exists, perhaps someone in the group can help.

MORE: The groups may meet more often, for fellowship, for service outside the congregation, or for study and Christian growth. What a wonderful way for our people to draw together, grow in faith, and in loving care for one another.

LCMS MONTHLY THEME FOR JANUARY

World Mission

JANUARY 2012



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NEW YEAR'S DAY 1 Worship 9:00 AM January Faith & Care Family: Paul	2 LWML Prayer chain NOON	3 Workday – 9:30 AM LWML Brd Mtg – 11:00 AM Bible Study - 1:30 PM	4 Men's Bible Study - 6:30 AM Bible Study - 9:30 AM Choir - 5:30 PM 7th Confirm & Midwk - 5:30 PM 8th Confirm. - 6:30 PM	5	6	7
8 Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Door Collection: Together In Mission	9 LWML Prayer chain NOON	10 Workday – 9:30 AM Bible Study - 1:30 PM Elders Meeting - 7:00 PM	11 Men's Bible Study - 6:30 AM Bible Study - 9:30 AM Esther Circle - 1:30 PM Choir - 5:30 PM 7th Confirm & Midwk - 5:30 PM 8th Confirm. - 6:30 PM	12 Ruth Circle - 7:00 PM Bible Study - 5:15 PM	13	14 Circuit Pastors - 10:30 AM @ Watertown
15 Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM	16 LWML Prayer chain NOON	17 Workday – 9:30 AM Bible Study - 1:30 PM Bd. of Education - 5:15 PM Council Meeting - 7:00 PM	18 Men's Bible Study - 6:30 AM Bible Study - 9:30 AM Choir - 5:30 PM 7th Confirm & Midwk - 5:30 PM 8th Confirm. - 6:30 PM	19 Bible Study - 5:15 PM	20	21
22 Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Door Collection: Seminary Student Potluck - 11:30 AM Voters Meeting - 1:00 PM	23 LWML Prayer chain NOON Newsletter Deadline NOON	24 Workday – 9:30 AM Bible Study - 1:30 PM	25 Men's Bible Study - 6:30 AM Bible Study - 9:30 AM Choir - 5:30 PM 7th Confirm & Midwk - 5:30 PM 8th Confirm. - 6:30 PM	26 Bible Study - 5:15 PM	27	28
29 Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM February Faith & Care Family: John	30 LWML Prayer chain NOON	31 Workday – 9:30 AM Bible Study - 1:30 PM	SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:00 AM – Worship 9:00 AM – Fellowship 9:15 AM - Sunday School 9:30 AM - Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM – Worship	Church Office: 886-5671 Pastor: Rev. Iver Possehl (H): (605) 692-2646 (C): 520-3174 BOARD OF ELDERs: Ron Koepke, Doug Jerke, Bill Snow, Gene Johnson, Don Schneider, Jerry Riedel, Paul McIntire	JANUARY BIRTHDAYS 1/01 Marion Johnson 1/02 Lucille Ehlers 1/11 Francis Boogaard 1/13 Harry Johnson 1/24 Don Bjerke	